

Knoll SB262

Members of the Public Health committee,

As the parent of a child who suffers from bi-polar disorder I am adamantly opposed to proposed S.B. No. 262 an act requiring notice by psychiatrists concerning patients that may pose a threat to themselves or others.

If this bill is passed it will deter people with mental illness and their support systems from seeking treatment for self injurious behavior. This bill, by nature, will create a distrustful relationship between Dr.s and their patients. It will make it impossible for a patient and clinician to have an open and honest dialogue about dangerous behaviors and create safety plans and treatments for fear that the clinician will be legally obligated to involve the authorities.

Treatment for mental illness should be between a patient and a provider. There is no room for law enforcement or public safety authorities in that treatment. Patients and their families should not have to fear that honest communication with a Dr. or Clinician will land the authorities on their door steps.

Right or wrong ours is a culture that mistrusts law enforcement. The very idea that they may become involved in patient care issues will be enough to keep people from seeking the treatment that they desperately need. Instead of adding an additional layer of security you will be ensuring that people don't seek treatment.

Thank you for your time.

Barbara Knoll Peterson
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